

This action is responsive to applicant's amendment/remarks filed 07/07/08. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are pending.

The claim 3 objection is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 06-340799 in view of Iizuka et al (6,221,547).

JP '799 discloses a conductive resin composition comprising polyester resin (PET, PBT) and carbon black (para 0001, 0006, examples of translation). The reference additionally teaches the claimed photosensitive drum use (para 0002), and discloses proportions within the claimed range (0008). JP '799 also teaches the addition of various other additives (stabilizer, etc) (0009). With respect to the instantly claimed "water absorption" values of claim 2, the examiner submits that the compositions disclosed in JP '799 would inherently possess such as the exemplified polyethylene terephthalate is the same as applicant's preferred material (TEIJIN PBT) (para 0015). The reference specifically or inherently meets each of the claimed limitations.

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The reference differs from amended claims 1-3 and 6-8 in failing to specify the addition of 10-50 parts of at least one whicker.

Iizuka discloses photosensitive drum based on a cylindrical base which is made with an electrically conductive resin composition which comprises a polyamide resin as the resin component and an electrically conductive material (Abstract). The reference specifically discloses the addition of 10-25 wt% whisker filler in order to improve strength and stiffness without sacrificing surface smoothness (Col 3, line 50 to Col 4, line 15).

Accordingly, the examiner submits that the addition of whicker filler to the conductive photoconductive drum layer compositions of JP'799 would have been obvious as Iizuka clearly teaches the benefits of such.

In the event that any minor modifications are necessary to meet the claimed limitations, such as selection of a particular non-conductive filler such as calcium silicate, such modifications are well within the purview of the skilled artisan.

The examiner believes that the new rejection addresses each of applicant's remarks filed 07/07/08.

In view of the foregoing, the above claims have failed to patentably distinguish over the applied art.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Kopec whose telephone number is (571) 272-1319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark Kopec/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit
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MK
October 22, 2008